

AMENDED IN SENATE JULY 16, 2015

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MAY 5, 2015

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2015–16 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 1242

Introduced by Assembly Member Gray

February 27, 2015

An act to add Section 13145.5 to the Water Code, relating to water quality.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1242, as amended, Gray. Water quality: ~~impacts on groundwater: instream flows: groundwater impacts.~~

Existing law establishes the State Water Resources Control Board and the 9 California regional water quality control boards as the principal state agencies with authority over matters relating to water quality. Existing law requires the state board to formulate and adopt state policy for water quality control. Existing law requires each regional board to formulate and adopt water quality control plans for all areas within the region and prohibits a water quality control plan, or a revision of the plan, adopted by a regional board, from becoming effective unless it is approved by the state board.

Existing law, the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act, requires all groundwater basins designated as high- or medium-priority basins by the Department of Water Resources that are designated as basins subject to critical conditions of overdraft to be managed under a groundwater sustainability plan or coordinated groundwater sustainability plans by January 31, 2020, and requires all other groundwater basins designated as high- or medium-priority basins to

be managed under a groundwater sustainability plan or coordinated groundwater sustainability plans by January 31, 2022, except as specified.

~~This bill would require the state board to take into consideration any applicable groundwater sustainability plan or alternative board, in formulating state policy for water quality control and adopting or approving a water quality control plan that affects a groundwater basin. This bill would require the state board to identify projects for fish recovery that may be undertaken in lieu of instream flows before adopting or approving water quality objectives or a program of implementation that requires instream flows for protection of instream beneficial uses.~~ *plan, to take into consideration, consistent with the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act, any applicable groundwater sustainability plan or alternative and available information and data regarding the impacts of groundwater use and management on beneficial uses of surface waters.*

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 13145.5 is added to the Water Code, to
2 read:

3 13145.5. ~~(a)~~ In formulating state policy for water quality
4 control and adopting or approving a water quality control plan that
5 ~~affects a groundwater basin,~~ *plan, the state board shall take into*
6 ~~consideration~~ *consideration, consistent with the requirements of*
7 *Division 13 (commencing with Section 21000) of the Public*
8 *Resources Code, any applicable groundwater sustainability plan*
9 *or alternative adopted or approved under Part 2.74 (commencing*
10 *with Section 10720) of Division 6, 6 and available information*
11 *and data regarding the impacts of groundwater use and*
12 *management on beneficial uses of surface waters.*

13 ~~(b) Before adopting or approving water quality objectives or a~~
14 ~~program of implementation that requires instream flows for~~
15 ~~protection of instream beneficial uses, the state board shall identify~~
16 ~~projects for fish recovery that may be undertaken in lieu of instream~~
17 ~~flows.~~

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